

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—In the abundance of our harvests, the universal peace, the individual and national prosperity, are to be found new motives of gratitude to the Father of Mercies, who holds our destinies in his hands.

Never, in the history of the Commonwealth, has there been a period of more prosperous tranquility. The citizens of the State, aside from the cause of contentment, have at last realized that a cause of disquiet, which has for the last twenty-five years oppressed them, is about to be removed.

On the 1st of December, 1848, the amount of the public debt was \$10,843,379 31. On the 1st of December, 1851, the amount of public debt was \$10,114,236 32.

During the last three years, there has been effected a reduction of upwards of seven hundred thousand dollars of indebtedness, without impairing the efficiency of the public works, or retarding any plans of practical benevolence, such as the Legislature, according to a policy of wise economy, have thought proper to authorize.

I do not hesitate to attribute this important result to the successful operation of the efficient and judicious system established by the act of the 10th of April, A. D. 1849. The detailed transactions of the commissioners of the fund will appear in their report to be submitted to the Legislature.

This system, copied in its leading features from that which was established in the early years of our history, by the extinguishment of the national debt, has worked admirably. While there can be no objection to the construction of public securities, such as would derange and disturb our monetary relations, neither can there be, under the present law, any accumulation of stocks in the hands of the commissioners, to the detriment of the application of the fund, under any accidental emergency, to other purposes than that which it was originally intended.

The creation of this fund, and the adoption of the system of making no loans, unless provision for their liquidation be made in the laws authorizing them, have already exercised a moral influence on public policy. Like the protective system in national legislation, though by another process, they prevent the representatives of the people from contracting a public debt, or making the payment of such a debt a part of the fixed policy of the Government, which no one will be willing to disavow or disturb, or interfere with on extension of public improvement, or expenditures for beneficent purposes.

The first application of surplus revenue is to pay a portion of the State debt, the next to extend and maintain such public works as are actually necessary, and to diffuse the greatest good. To maintain that system of financial policy, which has for its object the gradual and certain extinguishment of the public debt, is as well the duty as it will be the earnest desire of the general Assembly.

Believing that the revenues of the Commonwealth, if properly guarded, are adequately sufficient for both objects—the present and the future—the application of the public improvements, I again and earnestly press on the attention of the Legislature the claims of that great section of the State lying on the North Branch of the Susquehanna. The North Branch Canal ought to be finished without further delay. Its completion would insure increased revenue to the Treasury, and would be a simple act of justice to a large portion of the people interested in its construction.

The propriety of calling upon the National Government for a portion of the public lands in aid of the several great lines of railway communication within our borders, is again suggested and urged upon your favorable consideration.

To the existing and completed Internal Improvements of the State, or rather the mode of their management, I wish to call your attention. It is wanting in proper checks and the enforcement of proper responsibility, to assure which it is respectfully urged upon the Legislature to make such changes as will authorize the election of one Canal Commissioner by the people for a term of three years, to whom shall be entrusted the whole supervision of the system, and the selection by the Legislature of an Engineer, to serve for a similar term, to whom shall be committed the duty of making the necessary examinations and estimates of the propriety and cost of construction and repair of the public works.

That a commissioner or agent for payments shall be selected by the Internal Improvement Commissioners, to be directed by the Board of Public Lands annually appropriated to these purposes. Officers thus selected, owing their appointment to different powers in the Government, would from that fact and the nature of their duties, act as checks upon each other, bring responsibility directly to each department of the system, and secure a more active and energetic discharge of duty.

It is again to be regretted that the revenues derived from the public works ought to be more greatly increased. These improvements should now bring a clear revenue to the Treasury. In other States, canals and railroads have rarely failed to become sources of revenue within a few years from the period of their construction. While with us, from causes heretofore suggested for Legislative action, and still within Legislative control, the result has been widely different.

Our system of public education is far from that perfection which is desirable. The defects appear to arise from insufficiency of funds, and the want of proper teachers. It is manifest that competent persons, in sufficient numbers to supply the demand for their services, cannot be had, unless some practical plan is adopted as part of the Common School system, to create professional teachers. The ability to impart knowledge to others, particularly to young minds, is to be obtained only after long and patient study, assisted by all the facilities which science and learning can afford. The future greatness and happiness of the country depend so much upon the enlightenment of the public mind, that the statesman and patriot cannot devote his time, energies, and talents to a more worthy object, than its attainment.

The recent Agricultural exhibition was so somewhat, and so creditable to our people, in the display of works of skill and home industry, as well as the agricultural implements and stock, that I am convinced great public good would result from the urgent request of a former Message, he directed to be of great importance to this great interest, it is hoped will meet the approval of your hands. The exhibitions should be repeated in other parts of the State, and cherished as the best means of diffusing practical and scientific knowledge of agriculture. The establishment of a State Society for Western Pennsylvania, would be highly beneficial to the people of that portion, dependent as they are, by the difficulty of transportation, of a participation in the benefits of the present State Exhibitions.

Contracts have been made for the publication of the Colonial Records, and of the maps and other documents connected with the Geological Survey of the State. An interesting report from the gentleman charged with the arrangements for publication of the Pennsylvania Archives, accompanies this Message. I invite to it, and to these important and interesting papers your favorable action. The supervision of the publication of these papers should be entrusted to the gentleman who has arranged them. The labor performed has greatly exceeded the amount contemplated by the Legislature, and hence demands additional compensation.

The Insane Asylum, as well as other charitable institutions in which the State is directly interested, are in a prosperous condition. The kindly regards of the Assembly are solicited for this institution.

It is a pleasant reflection now, and will be a grateful remembrance hereafter, that to the promotion of all these interests, the administration of public affairs, while under my control, has faithfully, and to some extent, effectually, directed its labors. It is to be regretted that more was not accomplished, but it is still necessary to know that so much of practical good has been done.

In the enactment of the revenue laws of the National Government, much injury has resulted to many of the industrial interests of the State. Their attention to such a manner as will protect these interests, is much desired. I have on former occasions most fully expressed my views on this subject, and have urged upon the Legislature the propriety of such action as would influence favorably the National Congress.

The great manufacturing, mining, and agricultural interests of Pennsylvania require, and demand a change of the present system of tariff laws. The ill-success attending former efforts, furnish an excuse for an omission again to call attention to the subject.

In the confederacy of States we hold an important position. Pennsylvania, from the numbers of her population, and their acknowledged patriotism, has a right to demand for her industry that kindly legislation which it deserves and should receive. It is not the security of her rights, and it is equally unwarrantable, to submit to oppression and wrong. A firm and manly demand for the change of policy which is rapidly imperiling a portion of our citizens, regarding the growth of the State, and preventing any development of its mineral resources, would have the effect of securing from our National Government such modification of its tariff laws, as would protect American labor against the ruinous competition of foreign countries. It is most sincerely to be hoped, that the present Assembly will determine, in its action on this subject, to be faithful to Pennsylvania.

A communication from the Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary has been laid before me. Its statements show that the number of cells is inadequate to the accommodation of the convicts. To secure punishment by separate confinement, it is proposed to finish another tier of cells already commenced. Whilst considering fully in the recommendations of the worthy Inspectors, I desire to call your attention to their letter hereto annexed.

My attention has been directed, by the occurrence of fearful accidents in the cities of our Commonwealth, to the necessity of precautionary legislation on the subject of the construction of private and public buildings in crowded communities. I respectfully ask your consideration of this matter. It is idle to say that a sense of individual self-interest is a sufficient protection on this subject. All experience shows that it is not so, and that in localities where ground is very valuable, spaces restricted, and competition for position active, everything is left to the most temporary advantage. The public is not to be lulled into a sense of impending danger until some frightful casualty, involving the loss of innocent human life, startles it from false security. Legislation in prevention of the recurrence of these casualties is especially recommended.

The laws in relation to small notes issued by banks for the accommodation of the public, in many counties are entirely disregarded. In former messages, reference was made to evil consequences likely to result to the morals of a community from open disobedience to law. It is clear that the present law is not, and will not be executed. The circulating medium it proposes to banish, should not be permitted to exist among us, in its present condition. Authority is hereby given to the Commonwealth to issue, in the determination of money, would speedily drive from circulation this depreciated currency, by the substitution of notes issued by institutions under the control of the Legislature. In relation to this subject, as well as to a system of free banking, based upon public securities, and recommendations of a former message, are respectfully referred to your careful consideration.

I would refer you to the Report of the Canal Commissioners for a detailed statement of the proceedings on the public works during the past year, and to the reports of the Auditor General, Treasurer, Surveyor General, Superintendent of Common Schools, and Adjutant General, for information in relation to the operations and condition of their several departments during the same period.

The following estimates of receipts and expenditures for the current year are duly submitted.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS. From Lands, 30,000; Auction commissions, 23,000; Auction duties, 50,000; Tax on dividends, 290,000; Corporation stocks, 160,000; Licenses, 170,000; Retailers, 2,000; Pedlars, 2,000; Brokers, 4,000; Theatre, Circus, Menageria, 4,000; Distillery and Brewery, 2,000; Billiard rooms, &c., 8,000; Betting houses, &c., 3,000; Patent medicine, 5,000; Pamphlet laws, 9,000; Militia fines, 9,000; Foreign Insurance Companies, 45,000; Tax on writs, &c., 18,000; offices, 175,000; Canal and Railroad tolls, 1,700,000; Canal fines, 1,000; Tax on enrollment of laws, 20,000; Premium on Charters, 140,000; Tax on loans, 30,000; Interest on loans, 10,000; Sales of public property, 25,000; Tax on tonnage, &c., 500; Dividends from bridge tolls, 3,000; Accrued Interest, 100,000; Funds of cash, 1,500; Fees of public officers, 4,000; Miscellaneous, 5,000.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES. Public works, supervision and repair, 890,000; Expenses of government, 240,000; Military expenses, 5,000; Pensions and gratuities, 15,000; Charitable institutions, 100,000; Common Schools, 200,000; Commissioners of Sinking Fund, 223,000; Interest on public debt, 2,000,000; Guaranteed interest, 30,000; Domestic creditors, 5,000; Damage to public works, 20,000; Special commissions, 500; State Library, 500; Public grounds and buildings, 10,000; Penitentiaries, 40,000; House of Refuge, 6,000; Nicholson lands, 2,000; Escheats, 8,000; Geological survey, 1,000; Colonial records, 1,000; Abatement of State Tax, 45,000; Relief notes, 2,500; Counsel fees, &c., 6,000; North Branch Canal, 330,000; Miscellaneous, 10,000.

An act, entitled "An Act to graduate lands on which money is due and unpaid to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," passed the 10th day of April, A. D. 1850, expired by its own limitation the 10th of December last. Its re-enactment would secure to many the advantages of its provisions, who, from pecuniary inability, or other causes, have been unable to avail themselves of its provisions.

It will be seen upon the present Assembly to make an appropriation of the State, for the election of members of the House of Representatives of the United States. I feel confident the greatest care will be observed, to give to every portion its just claims, and to make the arrangement of the Congressional Districts strictly conformable to those considerations of population and locality which should apply to them.

And now, gentlemen, of the General Assembly, as this is the last occasion upon which I shall appear, by message, address you, I beg to present you, with the assurance of my highest esteem and regard.

WM. F. JOHNSTON.

Executive Chamber, Harrisburg, January 5, 1852.

ASPECTOR OF CHIEF JUSTICE TANTY.—When the library in the Capitol was in flames, and clouds of smoke were rolling out and enveloping the building the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appeared in his seat at the usual hour, looking quiet and untroubled. "May it please your Honor," said an under-sheriff, "the Court room is on fire."

"The Court room is on fire?" said the Chief Justice, "is the Court room on fire?" "Oh, no, not yet," was the answer. "The Court room is on fire," said the Chief, "and the Court is sitting."

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, January 5, 1852.

ASPECTOR OF CHIEF JUSTICE TANTY.—When the library in the Capitol was in flames, and clouds of smoke were rolling out and enveloping the building the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appeared in his seat at the usual hour, looking quiet and untroubled. "May it please your Honor," said an under-sheriff, "the Court room is on fire."

"The Court room is on fire?" said the Chief Justice, "is the Court room on fire?" "Oh, no, not yet," was the answer. "The Court room is on fire," said the Chief, "and the Court is sitting."

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA. SATURDAY MORNING JANUARY 17, 1852.

County Convention. The Democratic election of the county of Erie is requested to meet at their several places of holding elections, on Saturday the 31st day of January, inst., at four o'clock P. M. in the several townships, and at half-past six o'clock P. M. in the several Boroughs and the Wards of the city of Erie, to appoint two Delegates from each Election District, to represent said District in a County Convention to assemble in the city of Erie on Monday the 23d day of February next to nominate two Delegates to represent this county in the Harrisburg Convention on the 4th day of March next to nominate an Electoral Ticket, to appoint Delegates to the Democratic National Convention, to nominate a candidate for Canal Commissioner, and to appoint three conferees to meet like conferees appointed by Crawford county to select a national delegate to represent this District in the said Harrisburg Convention.

SMITH JACKSON, C. M. TIBBALS, W. A. GALBRAITH, R. B. WILSON, F. W. MILLER, I. R. TAYLOR. Erie, January 3, 1852.

Democratic Delegates Meetings for Erie County. To be held on SATURDAY the 31st, inst. the last Saturday in this month, at the usual place of elections at 4 o'clock P. M., and half-past 6 o'clock in the several Boroughs of the same day.

See notice of Democratic County Committee. We are under obligations to Mr. WALKER, of the Senate, and Messrs. BLAIR and KELSO, of the House, for Public Documents.

The Editor has been absent for the past week having gone to the city for the purpose of purchasing a stock of Books and Stationery, and when he returns we expect to be able to furnish our customers with something pretty nice in that line.

In consequence of the late storm no mail has reached us from the east since Monday last, and as for news, that is entirely out of the question these snowy times.—There is undoubtedly "a better time coming."

The Communication of "Edoboro" was received too late for insertion this week. It shall have a place in our next.

The Erie and North East Railroad Board of Directors have appointed John Moore conductor, and W. P. Gilson Freight Agent. The services of Isaac Moorhead have been engaged to assist Mr. Spencer in the discharge of the duties connected with the Ticket Agency in this city.—Gazette.

The Pittsburgh Commercial Journal comes to us in an entire new dress, looking as neat as a new pin—tokens of success in pecuniary matters unheard of in these parts.

We have received the first number of a paper just started at Silver Creek, N. Y., entitled the Home Register. We presume it is reared upon the basis of the "Mail," lately published at that place. We wish it better success than its predecessor.

Governor's Message. We this week lay the last annual message of Gov. Johnston, before our readers. Whatever else may be said of it, it certainly has one good quality, and that is its brevity.

The Governor seems to have sought to be as brief as possible, and he has succeeded in issuing a shorter annual message than has come from the Seat of Government of this State for years. Taken as a whole, the document is of very little importance to anybody, and will not probably create a great deal of disturbance in the world. The Christiana edition is not mentioned in it.

The Railroad is at last completed, and the cars made their first trip over the road on Saturday, of last week, and performed, we believe, to the satisfaction of all present. There were a large number of our citizens assembled about the Depot to see them come in for the first time, who exhibited, as do all, no little satisfaction that the long-looked-for day had at length arrived.

We are not yet advised of the starting time of the several trains, nor how many it is designed to run in a day, but we presume it will be arranged for the best convenience of the traveling public.

We regret to announce the sudden death of ALVAN FLINT, of this city, on Monday afternoon. Walking down street, and becoming somewhat fatigued in consequence, as was supposed, of the exertion of getting through the drifted snow, he stopped at Mr. Drake's grocery shop, Dr. J. H. Sinar, was immediately called to see him, and after a few moments examination, took him up into his office close by, where, notwithstanding the best medical treatment, he continued to fail until he fell asleep in the arms of death. The immediate cause of this melancholy event, the physicians in attendance inform us, was affluence on the lungs. Mr. Flint was one of the oldest citizens of the place, being in his 60th year, and was universally respected.—Gazette.

Snow Storm.—We have seldom had a more severe storm than has been raging since Monday morning last. The atmosphere has been continually filled with snow, which the high winds have deposited in mountains throughout the whole country. So bad has it been, that up to the time of writing this article, (Thursday noon) the cars have not succeeded in getting through either to Buffalo or Dunkirk, and consequently every thing is behind since that time commencing.

The cars upon the N. E. and Erie road left the depot at 1 P. M. on Monday and succeeded in getting down about 7 miles where they snowed in and remained till to-day. The locomotive succeeded in reaching the North East Station on Tuesday, but was unable to get the cars there. The roads are almost impassable and it is still snowing and blowing from the west, with so good a wind as though it had just commenced.

The Propeller Globe, bound from Cleveland to Dunkirk, made this port last week, laden with about 200 tons of pork in the hog. She very wisely concluded to make this port instead of going to Dunkirk, where she would undoubtedly have shared the fate of the Briggs Star and Walbridge and Steamer Michigan. We learn that the pork will be forwarded by Railroad as soon as the Dunkirk and State Line Road are provided with freight cars to receive and carry it over their road.

Pittsburg and Erie Railroad. This road appears to have received a new impetus at the hands of its newly elected Board of Directors. They have ceased to quarrel with the western road and gone to work in earnest in getting subscriptions to the stock of the Company, carrying favors with the Pittsburgh and holding meetings and creating an interest in the work along the line of the road. This is as it should be—and had the same policy been pursued some time since, the project would have had more success, working friends than it ever had. We bid them good speed, and assure them that their course at present is calculated to create interest for their every hour, and particularly in this City, where the public has heretofore been looked upon at least with distrust, for the reason that nobody appeared to be doing anything towards building the road.

Getting Tired. The people are evidently getting tired of the columns of nonsense which appears to emanate just now from what is called the "Bachelor's Club." It appears that they amuse themselves by meeting together and writing communications for and against themselves, we suppose for the purpose of letting people see what an immense amount of talent that famous "Club" contains.—Now, we are getting tired of the trouble, and we propose the people are to. We are willing to subscribe to them at the price of a dollar, but they will only stop publishing their foolishness because it is an old saying that "every fool has enough to talk when he has something to say, but that some are too big fools to hold their tongues when they have nothing to say."

The Tariff. Gov. Johnston could not get through with his short message without logging in this state question. We had hoped for the sake of the common sense of the community, that we should never see the subject mentioned again. But it seems that whiggy never gets tired of a hobby until it kills him. Well up on this subject we do not at any very distant day. While upon the subject we must say with the Whigs that the foundation of all values, it should be estimated as carefully as gold or any other precious thing.

The whig doctrine of protection is based on the reverse—it teaches that it is best to squander labor—to make every product cost as much labor as possible. This is clearly false and fallacious.

The more labor we save in acquiring the necessities and comforts of life, (and even the elegancies and luxuries,) it is plain that the more we can have and enjoy with a given amount of labor, and the wider will be the circle of those who may become enjoyers.

If the same amount of labor necessary to make a ton of iron here, applied to other objects will produce what will buy a ton and a half of iron from another country, it is not positively better for us to produce other objects and buy our iron with them? And if we do so, do we not save the cost of one ton of iron clear out of every three tons we buy?

If by any newly invented labor saving machinery or process, iron could be made here for half its present cost, would such invention, by saving labor, degrade American labor? Would it not, on the contrary, by cheapening the cost of iron, extending its consumption in buildings, pavements, &c., increase the demand for labor, and extend vastly the benefits flowing from cheapness and abundance of iron?

Is it advantageous to buy cheap iron from abroad, in its own consequence to us whether the cheapness is the effect of superior management, machinery, cheap capital or cheap labor? It is not purely a question of economy—whether it is better to have dear iron and expend the same amount of labor at home in the manufacture of two tons of iron which applied to other objects would produce what would buy three tons? And is not, therefore, the whig objection about the degradation of American labor to the level of the pauper labor of Europe, the shortest clapnet, unworthy of rational men?

Has it not been proved by experience, that saving labor in production, or in other words, cheapening production, increases and extends consumption to a degree that vastly multiplies the demand for labor? Take cotton for example. Can there be a doubt of our home being employed in growing the raw material, building factories, manufacturing machinery, superintending its operation, packing, transporting, &c., of the raw cotton and its fabrics, than would be employed had labor saving machinery never been invented and were the old hand cards and hand looms still in use? Besides this, how many millions of human beings are enjoying the benefits of cotton goods who would have been deprived of it, had the high prices, which were overthrown by machinery, continued to this day?

Is it injurious to us to buy iron cheaper, or with the products of less labor, from abroad than we can make it at home? If we are not benefited thereby, to the entire amount of the labor saved, then are not all the advantages of exchange of commerce an injury, and a degradation of American labor?

Allow the value of iron to be made up entirely of labor, how does that help the reasoning of the protectionists. There is nothing that we send abroad to pay for iron, the value of which is not made up in the same way. Thus when we buy iron, we exchange the products of labor for it; but we give less than it would require to make it here, or we should certainly make it here and not buy it from abroad. This statement makes it apparent, that the import, called protection of American labor, is a direct tax upon American labor; or a forced squandering of it upon objects which could be obtained with less labor, were no such import laid. Is not this consequence irresistible?

Unaffected cotton, rice, bread stuff, provisions, gold, &c. How is the value of these constituted differently from the value of iron? The basis of their value is precisely the same; i. e. interest on capital invested, and labor; the latter being by far the heaviest item. How idle then is the reasoning of the iron men! In its consequences it would wall us in and cleave our ports against all foreign commerce! Binding the labor of the country hand and foot, and placing it, helpless, under the iron heel of capital!

State Debt. The following statement showing the indebtedness of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the 1st day of December, 1851, is from the annual report of the Auditor General.

6 per cent loan, \$2,314,023 51; 5 do do, 32,704,848 03; 4 do do, 188,300 00; Total funded debt, \$26,317,707 54; Unfunded debt, Relief notes on circulation, \$650,163 00; Interest certificates outstanding, 150,311 82; Unclaimed, 4,448 38; Interest on outstanding and unclaimed certificates, when funded, 9,862 91; Domestic debt, 82,932 74; Total unfunded debt, 897,533 85; Total public debt, 40,114,236 36.

By the 6th section of the act of 15th April, 1851, the State Treasurer was authorized to borrow, on temporary loan, \$30,000, to be applied to improving the cars on the Columbia railroad. This was done. But as the amount is re-imbursable out of the proceeds of the sale of the railroad leading therefrom to the city of Philadelphia, and is a mere anticipation of some of the instalments from that company, it is not embraced in the above statement, nor in the table of loans.

By a meeting held in Forestville, N. Y., Dec. 19, 1850, by the ladies and gentlemen of Mr. Putnam's class in education, the Rev. J. O. Rich was called to the Chair, and W. F. Wilson appointed Secretary. After remarks, on motion, a Committee of three were appointed to draft Resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting.—Whereupon the Committee retired, and reported the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That having taken Lessons under the able instruction of Waverley Putnam, a Graduate from the Gymnasium of Education at Philadelphia, we confidently recommend to both male and female the study and practice of the science and art of Education, as being eminently calculated in our opinion: 1st. To give the pupil a perfect knowledge of the true Elements of Speech; 2d. To secure the most successful application of the science of speaking; 3d. To correct the faults of articulation; 4d. To improve the voice in power and melody; and give it variety of inflection and cadence; 5th. To invigorate the lungs, fortify them against disease, and impart natural and noble and sublime accents to the organs of the voice; 6th. To give the pupil confidence in the public audience and private circle; 7th. To promote ease and gracefulness in gesture and attitude; 8th. To cultivate the poetic and literary taste, for the enjoyment of the grandeur and beauty of thought; 9th. Last but not least, to impart to the learner Nature's own beautiful and elegant expression in Reading and Speaking.

Resolved, That Mr. Putnam's able and unassuming method of imparting a knowledge of the principles of the noble and sublime science and art of Education, his cultivated taste, and critical acumen, his unwearied attention to the progress and prosperity of his class, his affable and gentlemanly deportment render him an ornament to his profession, and we are glad to call forth our highest commendations.

Resolved, That the proceedings be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and a copy presented to Mr. Putnam as a token of the regard of this meeting and this community.

JOHN O. RICH, Chairman. W. F. WILSON, Secy. He arrived with undoubted approval by bills, Program's, &c.

Sunday and Erie Railroad.

There was a large and enthusiastic meeting of the friends of this road held at Philadelphia on the 2d inst., at which a very favorable feeling seemed to exist. The friends of the road for the city are influential and wealthy, and are every day becoming more numerous, and we think from present appearances, the probability exists that will see the whole line, from the city to Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore completed. Mayor Guerry presided at the meeting, and speeches were made by a number of distinguished citizens, both of Philadelphia and the interior of the State. Hon. H. A. Muhlenberg, of Berks county, was present, and being called upon made a very eloquent speech in favor of the road.—During his remarks he spoke of the wise foresight of our forefathers in securing to us the county of Erie, with its valuable harbor, and he showed the tenacity with which Pennsylvania had adhered to her claim on the territory in dispute. The reason of this, he said, was that the great men of those times foresaw the future greatness of the lake trade, and that it would be the richest prize to be sought for on the American continent. The harbor of Erie, he said, is six miles square, free from ice earlier in the spring and later in the fall than any other harbor on the lakes; and for all purposes of water communication it is superior to any of the lake ports. He spoke of the difference of the gauge of the portion of the Lake Shore Railroad running through Pennsylvania from that portion lying in Ohio and New York; and he said that it had purposely been caused by the Legislature of Pennsylvania in order that the necessity for the transportation of goods at Erie might give to both New York and Philadelphia a fair chance for the trade. Great efforts have been made to get this altered, and New York threatens to spend a hundred thousand dollars to have the rail re-gauged; but the speaker said, that there was patriotism enough in the Legislature, he knew, to resist all such attempts. As, then, trade and travel must be transhipped at Erie, it would naturally take the shortest route to the seaboard; and he proceeded to show that the Sunday and Erie Railroad would be ninety miles less than the New York and Erie, and consequently that it would be the more preferable of the two. To show that the road would be profitable to the stockholders, he quoted the large amounts spent by New York in her roads to the west, and the ample returns they have made.—Notwithstanding the large amounts spent on her roads, there has never been any difficulty in procuring additional appropriations or subscriptions. Mr. M. argued that the local trade of the proposed road would be sufficient to maintain it, and in this connection he referred to the immense quantities of land lying idle in those parts of the State, because there is no road to take their products to market. If there were any such avenue they would be immediately developed. In two years, the time it would take to construct the road, the whole adjacent country would be settled. With one-third of the amount necessary already subscribed by the interior, will Philadelphia neglect to lend her helping hand? Mr. Muhlenberg was attentively listened to, and closed with much applause.

Flogging in the Navy. We had thought, and still hope that this disgraceful, unmanly and brutal practice has passed from the statutes governing the Navy of the United States, and that its name would only be heard hereafter during the recitation of a "year" by some venerable old tar, while steering scenes upon the quarter-deck of a man-of-war in times gone by. But it appears that some of the Commanders of the Navy are not satisfied without the privileges of the lash on board ship,—to have the glorious privilege of hauling up one of their own flesh and blood, and setting some fiend of a Boatwain at him, to lash him until his back has more the appearance of a mass of wounded flesh and blood, than that of a human man. The reasons assigned for this, that most cannot be governed without it. It certainly appears to us as a poor excuse, and as a contemporary very just remarks, we are sure that it is not warranted as an established fact, that all officers in command in our naval service, who can govern those under them by reason, mildness and a moral power, and such modes of punishment as humanity will justify, are unfit to command. No matter how brave they may be, if they lack this power of government they are essentially deficient in one of the most important qualifications of a good naval officer.

It appears the matter came in Congress on the motion of Senator Gwin, of California, calling for a petition laying on the table asking for a restoration of the practice of flogging in the Navy.—The speech of Senator Stockton in command in our naval service, who can govern those under them by reason, mildness and a moral power, and such modes of punishment as humanity will justify, are unfit to command. No matter how brave they may be, if they lack this power of government they are essentially deficient in one of the most important qualifications of a good naval officer.

Legislative Summary. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 1852. At three o'clock yesterday the Senate was called to order by Col. Pearson, the Clerk, when the Secretary of the Commonwealth was announced with the returns of the late election.

Upon calling the vote all the members were found to be in attendance. On motion of Mr. Forsyth, the Senate proceeded to the election of Speaker, and after three ballots without an election, adjourned to 9 o'clock of next day.

The members elect of the House of Representatives, in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution, met in the Hall of the House of Representatives, this morning at 11 o'clock. They were called to order by Col. Jack, the Clerk, when the Secretary of the Commonwealth appeared at the bar, and was announced with the returns of the late election.

On motion of Mr. Hart, of Philadelphia, the Clerk was directed to read the returns. On calling the vote, ninety-seven members were found to be in attendance.

On motion of Mr. Lilly, the House then proceeded to the election of a Speaker, which resulted in the election, on the first ballot, of Mr. John H. Forney, of Armstrong County. The Speaker was escorted to the chair by Messrs. Acker and Bonham, who delivered a very appropriate speech, after which the oath of office was administered to him by Mr. Acker. The Speaker then proceeded to administer the official oath to the members. A committee was appointed to inform the Senate that the House was arranged and ready for business, after which it adjourned.

January 7. The Senate met agreeable to adjournment, and upon the 6th ballot, J. H. Walker, of Erie, was elected Speaker. On taking the chair, Mr. Walker returned thanks for the honor done him, in a neat and appropriate address. Mr. Muhlenberg then administered the oath of office to the Speaker, who swore in the new Senators.

On motion of Mr. Hoge, Messrs. Hoge and Myers were appointed a committee to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate had organized and was ready to proceed to business.

A committee was appointed in conjunction with a similar committee from the House of Representatives, to inform the Governor that the Legislature had organized and was ready to receive any communication he might present.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth being introduced, presented the annual Message of the Governor which was read. In the House, Wm. Jack was elected Clerk, H. W. Crozier, Secy. of the House, Joseph Elinger, Messenger, and Joseph Colman Door, Keeper, after which the Governor's Message was read. Bill passed both Houses in favor of Messrs. Hoge and Myers.

No business of any importance was done in either House on the 8th, it being the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans.

Dividend.—The Pittsburgh Gas Company has declared a dividend of 4 per cent on the capital stock, for the last six months.

Public Meeting.

A large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Erie, held at the Court House, on Wednesday evening January 7th, on the motion of B. B. Vincent Esq., the following officers were appointed: President C. M. REED, Vice Presidents JOHN GALBRAITH, and JAMES MITTS, Secretaries, W. A. GALBRAITH, and J. W. CAUGHEY. On motion the chair appointed James Thompson, B. B. Vincent, Walter Chasport, Joseph H. Williams and Smith Jackson, a Committee to report resolutions expressive of the views of the meeting. The Committee reported the following which were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That the examination, by scientific and practical men of the extensive deposits of Iron and Copper ore on the South shore of Lake Superior, has demonstrated conclusively their vast extent and superior quality, and hence their great value to the commercial and manufacturing interests of our country, and whereas the interception of cautious navigation of the Great chain of Lakes, by the falls of South St. Marie River, at the foot of Lake Superior, presents one of the most important and valuable objects of the rich mineral resources of that great Northern Peninsula, therefore

Resolved, That we regard the construction of a Ship Canal, of ample dimensions, around the said Falls, as a work of the highest importance to the people of the United States in general, and those of the lake region especially.

Resolved, That we view the said Canal, as emphatically a national work, securing, as it would "give trade" to the entire commercial marine of this great chain of inland seas.

Resolved, That the United States has a deep interest in making this improvement, as